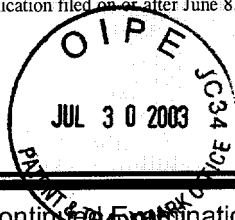


**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Application Number | 09/973,002 |
| Filing Date | October 10, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Tetsuya HIRAOKA et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 2827 |
| Name of Examiner | Lourdes C. Cruz |
| Attorney Docket No. | 011349 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

1. **Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☒ **Previously submitted**

- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on May 30, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)

- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ **Enclosed**

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

- b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340

- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)
ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
iii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$1,570.00 is enclosed to cover \$750.00 for the basic filing fee, and \$820.00 for the second and third months Petition for Extension of Time.

RECEIVED
MAY - 1 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000

REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

PAGE 2



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

011349

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name Mel R. Quintos

Registration No. 31,898 (atty/agent)

Signature

Date July 30, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature

RECEIVED
AUG - 1 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800